

Warren SENTINEL

Volume 63, Issue 5

F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming

Feb. 06, 2004



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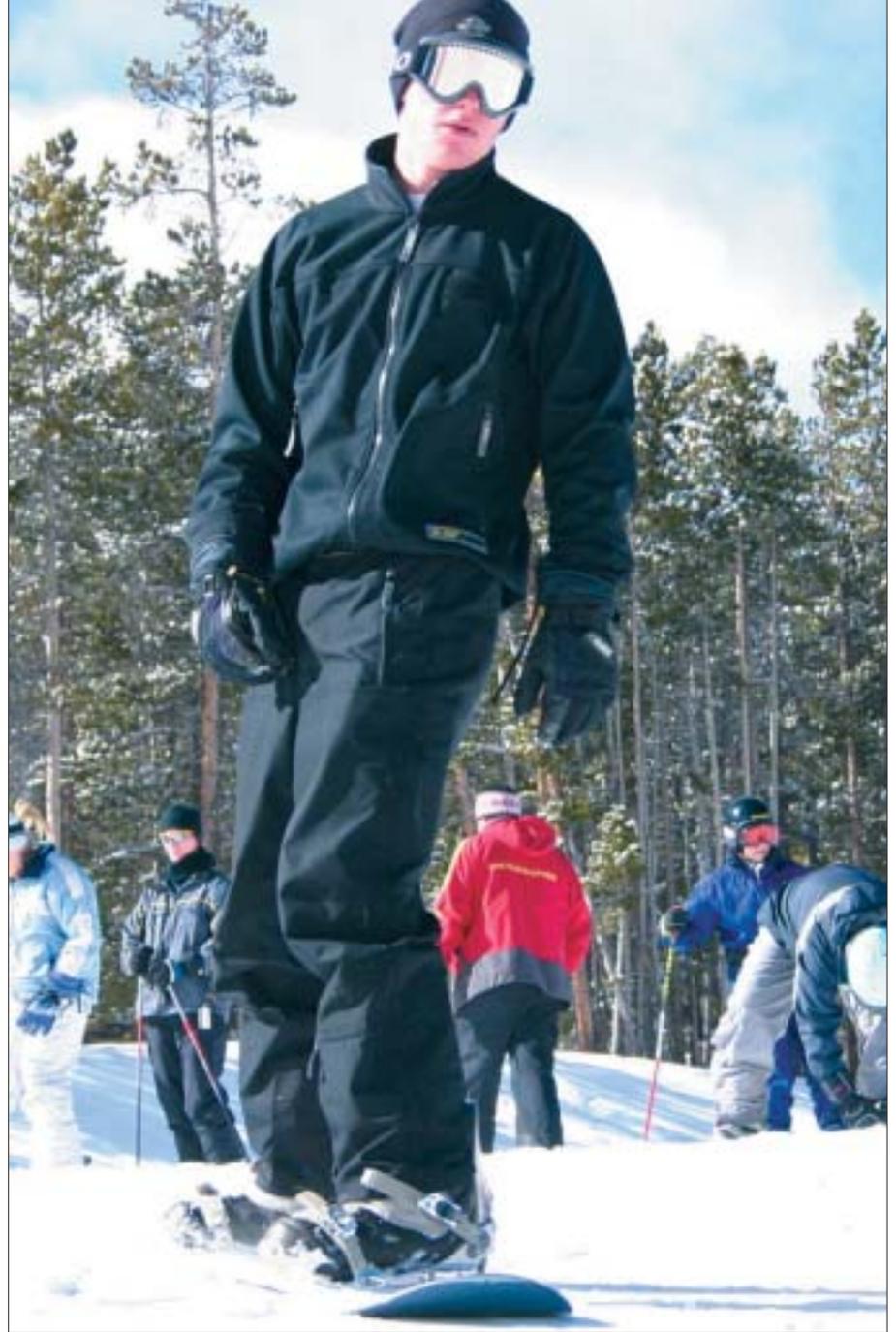
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The Fun Always Rolls Down Hill

Flying down the slopes at disturbingly quick-like speeds, a patron of Space Command's SnoFest had a great time hitting the slopes in his new-fangled skiing machine known to the youngsters as a "snow board." The 14th annual SnoFest weekend took place Jan. 30 to Sunday at the Keystone Resort in Colorado.

Photo by 2nd Lt. Darrick Lee



NCO Corps - What Sets us Apart

Col. John Faulkner
90th Maintenance Group
commander

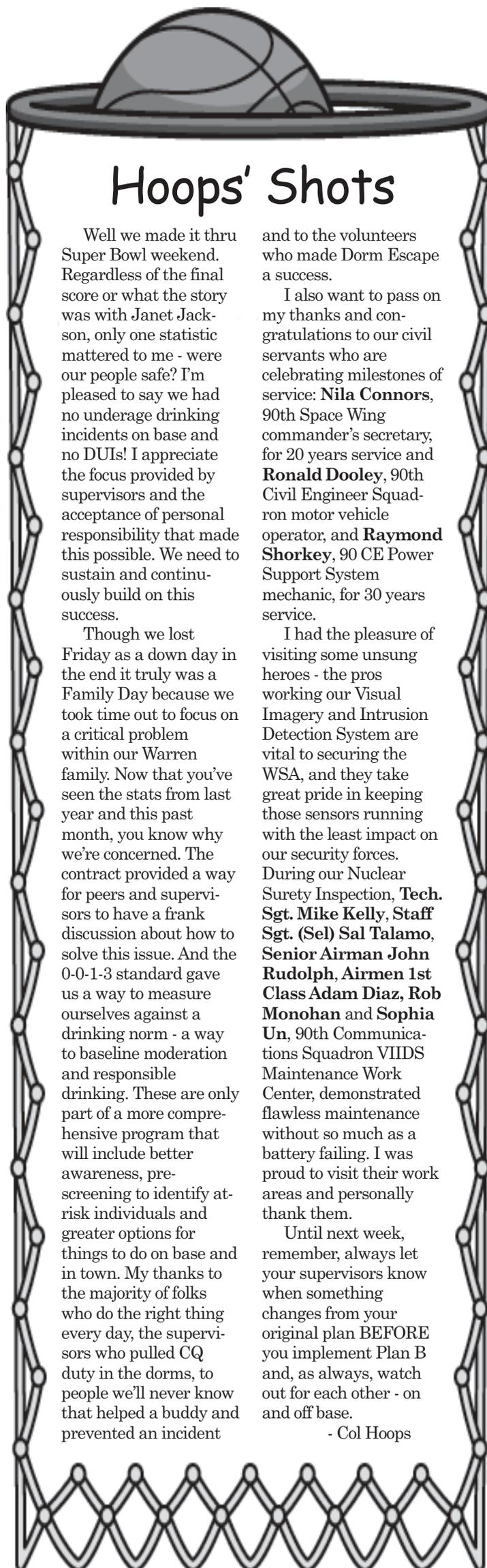
Most in the military have heard a commander or senior leader refer to the NCO corps as the backbone of the Air Force. Albeit true, these words are more than just a pat on the back for a job well done. They reflect the dynamic role that NCOs play, not only in mission accomplishment, but also in the overall health and effectiveness of the Air Force. NCOs perform duties that affect the entire spectrum of military operations. They are the technicians, team chiefs, NCOIC's, supervisors, and mentors whose cogency will always guide the successes and failures of the Air Force.

The key factors that set our NCO corps apart from those of the rest of the world are education and training. On average, the Air Force devotes almost \$20,000 to the formal training of each enlisted member, not including pay and infrastructure costs. This investment has resulted in the most intelligent, technically proficient NCO corps of any service in the world, and is an incredible bargain when compared to the dividends this training continues to pay - both in peacetime and in war. Furthermore, enlisted members are coming into the Air Force today with clearly defined educational goals, and when coupled with benefits such as the CCAF, the Montgomery GI Bill, and tuition assistance, these goals are being realized. More than 99 percent of our NCO's have at least the equivalent of

one year of college education and more than 30 percent hold an associate's degree or higher.

When comparing our NCO corps with those of other countries another profound difference can scarcely go unnoticed - quality of life. For example, in the mid-1990s the typical Russian enlisted man was conscripted into service after high school for two years and received a pittance of about \$200 a month in basic pay. A lack of military housing meant that he and his family were literally homeless, living in provisional shelters, packing crates, or canvas tents. His daily life was consumed with fulfilling his family's basic needs, leaving little time or energy for education or creative growth. These grim circumstances provided ample motivation for illegal activities and other systematic abuse. Without a professional NCO corps to act as a role model the enlisted man had virtually no incentive for advancement and often left after his two year obligation was concluded. Contrast the Russian reality with the work environment of USAF noncommissioned officers and you can see a startling difference.

Our NCO corps demonstrates a wide array of talents and attributes that make our Air Force successful. It's representative of the quality work we've come to expect from our NCOs, work that allows us to operate at high levels of performance for a very reasonable cost. It sets us apart; it sets us above.



Hoops' Shots

Well we made it thru Super Bowl weekend. Regardless of the final score or what the story was with Janet Jackson, only one statistic mattered to me - were our people safe? I'm pleased to say we had no underage drinking incidents on base and no DUIs! I appreciate the focus provided by supervisors and the acceptance of personal responsibility that made this possible. We need to sustain and continuously build on this success.

Though we lost Friday as a down day in the end it truly was a Family Day because we took time out to focus on a critical problem within our Warren family. Now that you've seen the stats from last year and this past month, you know why we're concerned. The contract provided a way for peers and supervisors to have a frank discussion about how to solve this issue. And the 0-0-1-3 standard gave us a way to measure ourselves against a drinking norm - a way to baseline moderation and responsible drinking. These are only part of a more comprehensive program that will include better awareness, pre-screening to identify at-risk individuals and greater options for things to do on base and in town. My thanks to the majority of folks who do the right thing every day, the supervisors who pulled CQ duty in the dorms, to people we'll never know that helped a buddy and prevented an incident

and to the volunteers who made Dorm Escape a success.

I also want to pass on my thanks and congratulations to our civil servants who are celebrating milestones of service: **Nila Connors**, 90th Space Wing commander's secretary, for 20 years service and **Ronald Dooley**, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron motor vehicle operator, and **Raymond Shorkey**, 90 CE Power Support System mechanic, for 30 years service.

I had the pleasure of visiting some unsung heroes - the pros working our Visual Imagery and Intrusion Detection System are vital to securing the WSA, and they take great pride in keeping those sensors running with the least impact on our security forces. During our Nuclear Surety Inspection, **Tech. Sgt. Mike Kelly**, **Staff Sgt. (Sel) Sal Talamo**, **Senior Airman John Rudolph**, **Airmen 1st Class Adam Diaz**, **Rob Monohan** and **Sophia Un**, 90th Communications Squadron VIIDS Maintenance Work Center, demonstrated flawless maintenance without so much as a battery failing. I was proud to visit their work areas and personally thank them.

Until next week, remember, always let your supervisors know when something changes from your original plan BEFORE you implement Plan B and, as always, watch out for each other - on and off base.

- Col Hoops

Warren SENTINEL

Published by:
Wyoming Newspapers, Inc.
202 E. 18th St., Cheyenne,
WY, 82005
(307) 632-5666
Sentinel@warren.af.mil

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Articles are due to Public Affairs, Building 250, room 201, by 4:30 p.m. Thursday the week before publication. Classified ads are due by 11 a.m. Tuesday the week of publication.

Classified ads can also be dropped off or mailed to Wyoming Newspapers, Inc., 202 E. 18th St., by 1 p.m. Tuesday the week of publication. Articles and ads that don't meet these deadlines won't be considered for that week's issue.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by 90th Space Wing Public Affairs of F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., of Air Force Space Command. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Public Affairs reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

Direct questions or comments to the SENTINEL at 773-3381 or e-mail at Sentinel@warren.af.mil.

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Black History Committee to Host Trivia Contest

1st Lt. Frank Brooks
321st Missile Squadron

African American Heritage Committee will host the 2004 Trivia Contest 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Chappel Annex. We invite all kids, pre-teens and teens regardless of race or ethnic origin to participate in this fun and educational event. The committee's goal is to promote unity by building bridges of understanding and appreciation.

Contestants can enter in one of three categories: Children (ages 9-11), Pre-teens (ages 12-15) and Teens (ages 16-18). Each age group will have four contestants.

Contestants will play a very simple jeopardy game. Questions will be in A, B and C format. Questions are age appropriate for each group. Contestants can prepare by reviewing African American history.

Questions will consist of famous black inventors, civil right leaders, sports entertainers, etc. A tie-breaker

question will be asked in case of a tie.

The winner from each age group will win a cash award. Cash awards will be administered accordingly: ages 9-11 \$50; ages 12-15 \$75; and ages 16-18 \$100.

Potential contestants will be chosen from the audience at 5:30 p.m. on game day. If your name is called and you are not present the host will select another name.

Please come out and support this wonderful educational event. Audience members can win free door prizes.

Appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for all to enjoy.

Potential contestants should contact Capt. Buckingham at 773-2998 or e-mail him at Dwayne.Buckingham@warren.af.mil by today. Please forward name and age of participant.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Hasinger

Yankee Doodle Yummie

Servicemembers, DoD civilians and their families partied well into the evening at SnoFest's Yankee Doodle Party Jan. 30 at the Keystone Resort in Colorado. A buffet of chicken, corn on the cob, salad and more was served before *Tops in Blue* took the stage. Twenty thousand dollars worth of door prizes were given away at the Yankee Doodle Party and Saturday's Tropical Luau Party. Guests were encouraged to dress in these themes.

Retirees Reminded to Pay TRICARE Prime Fees on Time

Article courtesy TRICARE

We all know how important it is to pay bills on time. Paying utility bills late can result in having the power, water or telephone service turned off. Failing to pay the TRICARE Prime enrollment fee on time will result in being involuntarily disenrolled from Prime. Disenrollment means being "locked out" of Prime for a period of 12 months from the disenrollment date. During that period, TRICARE Standard or Extra can be used. In the past several months, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of beneficiaries forgetting to pay their enrollment fees.

Family members of active duty

service members may enroll in TRICARE Prime at no cost, however, military retirees, their survivors and family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime are responsible for an annual enrollment fee. TRICARE-eligible, unremarried former spouses, regardless of their sponsors' duty status, must also pay Prime enrollment fees.

The Prime enrollment fee is \$230 a year for individuals and \$460 for two or more family members. Fees may be paid annually or quarterly by check, money order or credit card. A quarterly individual payment is \$57.50. The family fee is \$115 per quarter.

TRICARE rules require

TriWest Healthcare Alliance to send billing notices for quarterly installment payments no later than 30 calendar days prior to the payment-due date. TriWest recommends that you mail your enrollment fee payment by the 20th of the month to be sure it's received before the due date.

Prime beneficiaries under age 65 who are retiring from active duty military service must be aware of their specific enrollment/payment deadlines and submit their enrollment forms and applicable fees on time to avoid a gap in coverage.

If the retirement date is the first of the month, the retiree must enroll in Prime (and pay the fees) by the 20th of the previous month. If

the 20th falls on a weekend, the enrollment application and fee must be submitted on the business day prior to the 20th. If the retirement date does not fall on the first of the month, the retiree must submit the enrollment form and fee before retirement date to avoid a lapse.

Want More Info?

For TRICARE Prime enrollment fee or billing date info, call 1-888-TRIWEST

For TRICARE Prime info, visit www.triwest.com or www.tricarecr.carson.army.mil

For all your TRICARE needs, contact the TRICARE Service Center at 307-772-4020.

New After-Hours Care Policy For 90th Med Group

Article Courtesy 90th Medical Group

The 90th Medical Group will be changing their policy for after-hours care effective Monday.

Non-PRP members may then seek urgent and emergency care without a pre-authorization from the on-call Primary Care Manager, however, PRP members will still be required to notify the PCM on-call prior to seeking any off-base medical treatment.

When seeking after-hours care at Health Reach, TRICARE Prime patients will be asked to fill out a form, which will be forwarded to the 90 MDG for evaluation, authorization and processing by the TRICARE Service Center - replacing the referral forms. The Emergency Room at United Medical Center, West will also forward a list every morning for documentation. Routine after-hours medi-

cal care won't be authorized using these steps and won't be covered. Any medical care during duty hours will require an appointment in the clinic or a referral (pre-authorization) from your PCM to another facility.

Visits to downtown healthcare facilities will be closely monitored and, if negative trends arise, the policy will revert to the previous referral requirement. The PCM on-call will still be available for healthcare questions and advice at 773-1111.

All members may immediately seek medical care without a referral in the case of a life-or-limb emergency (major injury, unconsciousness, uncontrolled bleeding), however, they are still required to notify their PCM and PRP monitor (if member is PRP) as soon as possible. For more information, call the managed care office at 773-3011.



Photo by 1st Lt. Nicole Walters

Reaching Out

Joyce Hughes, right, received Warren's Volunteer of the Year award this past week. She has spent more than 10 years and 7,500 hours devoted to helping Warren members like Andre and Patricia Hernandez shown with their new baby Kezziah. Hughes received the award for work including the Layette program which provides necessities to airmen having their first child.

SnoFest: More Than Just Snow

Airman 1st Class Lauren Hasinger
Public Affairs

Thirty-two snow bunnies from the Front Range bases descended upon the Keystone Resort in Colorado for the 14th annual SnoFest weekend Jan. 30 to Sunday.

Servicemembers, DoD civilians and family members from Warren, Schriever, Buckley Air Force Bases, the Air Force Academy and Fort Carson participated in the all-military snow sport weekend.

SnoFest began when the services departments from Front Range bases developed a ski day. Three years later it became what it is today, SnoFest.

SnoFest kicked off Friday with the Commander's Cup Race. Individual and team members took two runs with NASTAR handicapping in both ski and snowboard categories. Although Warren didn't place in the Commander's

Forces Squadron won the Commander's Challenge Broken Tip Race. Lt. Saucier placed second in the individual men's ski competition with a time of 22.3 seconds, just .19 seconds behind the first place winner from Peterson AFB.

Facing frigid temperatures and nasty road conditions weren't enough to deter youths and families from competing on the NASTAR course Saturday. Though no one from Warren placed on Saturday, Rickey Rau from the Wyoming National Guard won the Men's Open Ski with a time of 21.62.

Also on Saturday was the Cardboard Derby. All sleds were built out of nothing but cardboard, tape, paper, rope and paint. More than 40 entries competed in the weekend's final competition. After a rough start due to the fresh snow, the first few contestants sacrificed themselves so the remaining sleds could slide down the slope with ease. The cardboard entries consisted of several boats, dice, a police car, a Hummer and even a Viking ship.

"I've worked 14 SnoFests. I really enjoy seeing everyone in their ski clothes with rosy cheeks and enjoying the things that we can offer," said Ms. Lorri Welsh, 90th Services Squadron marketing director.

The weekend was just as jam-packed for non-skiers. Tours to the International Ice Sculpture Contest, Silverthorne Outlet Mall, and the Hot Sulfur Springs Resort and Spa were all included. There were also sleigh rides, ice-skating and tubing available.

For the night-life lovers, two parties were held at the conference center. Friday's Yankee Doodle Party was a red, white and blue themed evening, while Saturday's Tropical Luau Party was Hawaiian themed. Several door prizes



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Hasinger
Travis Kickery climbs out of the Cardboard Derby he and Mr. Matt Hedger are building along with Mr. Mike Hickery, 90th Contracting Squadron, and Jonathan Hedger. The team represented Warren at the 14th annual SnoFest Cardboard Derby Saturday at Keystone.



Photo by 2nd Lt. Darrick Lee

Cup Race they did take home the prize in the Broken Tip Race. Col. Evan Hoapili's hand picked team consisted of 1st Lt. Chris Saucier, 90th Operations Support Squadron, Master Sgt. Steve Miller, 90th Comptroller Squadron and Staff Sgt. Louis Buck, 90th Security

were given away consisting of gift certificates and prizes. Fresh from their recent performance at the Cheyenne Civic Center, the Air Forces expeditionary entertainment unit, Tops in Blue, performed at both events.

Free goodies were all the rage at the SnoFest hospitality tent at the bottom of the ski slopes. From soda pop to hot chocolate and coffee to ba-

gels, there was much to go around.

"I go to SnoFest every year. I snowboard all day long," said Senior Airman Carlos Tomalavalarezo, 400th Missile Squadron work group manager. "There is such camaraderie between everyone here. I am having such a great time and hope to be back again next year."

Did You go to SnoFest?

Complete the SnoFest survey at http://ice.disa.mil/survey_library/go.cfm?SnoFest

BRIEFS

Chat with Gen. Lord

Today from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m., kicks off the inaugural Air Force Instant Messenger chatroom with Gen. Lance Lord, Air Force Space Command commander. Warren personnel can log on to the Air Force Portal chatroom for a virtual meeting with Gen. Lord to discuss force development issues.

First, log on to the Air Force Portal at <http://my.af.mil>.

Second, sign up for an account by following the Self-Registration Page link at the bottom of the Portal page.

Once logged on, you will see the AF Portal main page. Click the AFIM button in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

Finally, click on the "I would like to... join a chat," then "AFSPC/CC Chat" and type the password "space" to join the chat room.

Don't miss your

chance for a virtual one-on-one chat with General Lord.

CFD Tickets Available

Rodeo and night show tickets are now available at outdoor recreation.

For more information, call outdoor rec at 773-2988 or stop by 6205 15th Cavalry.

Some Tax Statements Now Online

Tax statements are now posted on myPay for Army, Navy and Air Force Reserve, Department of Defense and Department of Energy civilian employees, military annuitants, military retirees and active duty Air Force members.

Employees can view their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Tax Exemption For Military

Active duty members owning and living in mobile homes, who don't claim Wyoming as their state of

residency, must file an affidavit of non-residency with the Laramie County Assessor's office by March 1 to be tax exempt. For more information, call 633-4307.

Annual Awards Banquet scheduled

The annual wing awards banquet is scheduled for 6 p.m., Feb. 19 at the Pronghorn Center (Building 834). The event will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7. For more information or to sign-up, contact your first sergeant.

Circuit Training Offered

The Warren Health and Wellness Center is offering a 30-station exercise class from 3 to 4 p.m., each Tuesday and Thursday at the new gym.

The program can be modified as to help both beginners and more advanced participants.

For more information, call the HAWC at 773-4292.

Scholarship Offered

First Command and the Officers' Spouses Club are now offering scholarships to seniors seeking financial assistance for college in Fall 2004. Scholarship packets may be picked up now at school guidance offices.

They must be completed and ready for pick up from school guidance counselors by March 31. For more information, contact Jan Ritter at 632-0256.

Sweetheart Dance Scheduled

The Warren Youth Center is hosting a Sweetheart Dance, Feb. 15, at the Trail's End Club. Tickets are available at the Youth Center through Feb. 9.

The Preteen Dance will be from 4 to 6 p.m. and the Teen Dance from 7 to 11 p.m. Each dance will feature DJ music for dancing, snacks, door prizes, games and karaoke. Tickets are \$5 for preteens and \$7 for teens.

For more information, call the Warren Youth Center at 773-2564.

Healthy Cooking Demo Scheduled

A cooking demonstration is scheduled for Feb. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Warren Health and Wellness Center, Building 745. The demo will feature guest chefs. For more information, call 773-4292.

Student Aid Workshop Scheduled

A free Application for Federal Student Aid Workshop will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m., March 3 at the Education Services Office, Building 841, Room 24. Participants will be assisted in the completion of the complicated FAFSA form.

FAFSA form assists students in obtaining grants, scholarships and student loans.

For more information or to register, call 773-2117.

SFS Reckless Driver Knocks Off MOS

Staff Sgt. Kurt Arkenberg
Public Affairs

An Art Ross dribble drive and floater in the lane with 5.2 seconds left lifted the 90th Security Forces Squadron over the 90th Maintenance Operations Squadron 55-54 Jan. 29 at the new gym to claim the intramural basketball championship.

The fact the game was in doubt until the final ticks came as no surprise to those in attendance as it was back and forth throughout. Both teams' stars were shining brightly from the



Art Ross Pulls up in traffic to drain a long duece during the second half.

onset as Ross led his squad with timely buckets and tenacious defense while 90 MOS' Lyron Paul helped his team climb on top many times with jumpers beyond the range of any big man this side of Dirk Nowitzki. Time and again SFS couldn't locate the biggest man on the court before he rained a jumper down. When the buzzer sounded to end the first half in a tie, Paul had racked up 14 of MOS' 29, while Ross had claimed a dozen of SFS' 29.

The second half was as hotly contested as the first with Paul and John Upshaw holding SFS

at arms length for much of the half. But like Patton at the Battle of the Bulge, the SFS floor general stood tall and calm among the chaos. As time ticked away and MOS held onto a five-point lead, Ross was stepping up his defense, calming his teammates and hitting crucial baskets. After a questionable reaching call on Ross at the two-minute mark, he gathered himself, settled his teammates on the pine and set out to take over the game.

A three-pointer, a defensive stop and a jump-stop and bucket later and the game was tied at 51. MOS pulled ahead by a bucket, SFS tied it again before MOS converted one of two free throws to set up Ross' heroics.

Ross led all scorers by dropping 27; Scott Gero added 11; Tony Bostic chipped in seven; Wayne Horton and Phillip Boyd kicked in four a piece; and Chris Evans and Josh Gearhart rounded out the SFS scoring with a bucket each.

Paul led MOS with a double deuce; Upshaw kicked in 10; Courtney Walker added seven; Clem Blackmon knocked down five; and Jason Marks and Ron Banks chipped in four points each.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kurt Arkenberg

Ross drives deep into the lane, avoids the contact and knocks down the game winner with just over five ticks left.



Photo by Airman Tessa Cubbon

Scott Gero goes up and under the defense for the tear drop in the paint. Gero finished with 11 for SFS.



Jason Marks fires a freebie late in the game to keep hope alive for 90 MOS.



Lyron Paul pulls the trigger on two of his 22 before the double team can arrive.



Photo By 1st Lt. Nicole Walters

Getting a 'Six Pack'

Senior Airman Venerando Olivo, 790 MSFS, spent his lunch hour at the new base gym getting "WarFit." Olivo incorporates strength and aerobic exercises in his workout regime to maintain his fitness level.

Youth Bowling Scores

Pee Wee (Ages 3-5)

Justin Reiger	114 (Average 70)
Gabbi Gabel	101 (Average 70)

Bantam-Prep (Ages 6-11)

Cameron Maloney	527 (High Series Hdcp)
Molly Campbell	501
Brandyn Hall	204 (High Game Hdcp)
Jessica Campbell	192

Junior-Major (Ages 12-21)

Buzz Robinett	688 (High Series Hdcp)
Shanna Niewald	652
Joel Pushcar	253 (High Game Hdcp)
Kayla Bates	234





U.S. AIR FORCE BRIEFS

DoD Has Civilian Buyout, Retirement Authority

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense now has permanent authority to offer civilian employees voluntary early retirements and buyouts (voluntary separation incentives) without having to get Office of Personnel Management approval each year.

They allow the Air Force to offer employees up to \$25,000 to leave the Air Force, and/or take a voluntary early retirement. By exercising these authorities, the Air Force will be able to take reductions in their civilian workforce while minimizing reductions in force, personnel officials said.

Certificate of Creditable Coverage Automatically Issued

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Department of Defense Military Health System officials are now automatically issuing a Certificate of Creditable Coverage to any former uniformed services sponsor or family member who loses eligibility for health-care benefits under Tricare. The service began Feb. 1.

Eligibility for Tricare may end as a result of a sponsor's separation from active-duty status, divorce, demobilization if the sponsor is a guardsman or reservist or when a dependent child reaches age 21, or 23 for full-time students.

'Force Shaping' Means Some Can Leave Active Duty Early

Maj. John J. Thomas
Air Force Personnel Center
Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — There is good news for thousands of airmen considering leaving active duty who thought they couldn't because of existing service obligations.

An effort dubbed "force shaping" is opening the exit doors to officers and enlisted servicemembers in select career fields and year groups by waiving some active-duty service commitments previously incurred for events like government-funded education, permanent changes of station and promotion.

Force shaping includes opportunities to transition to the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard, and can relieve some people of their active-duty service commitments.

Rules for leaving active duty early will be the least restrictive for anyone wanting to transfer to the Guard or Reserve through the Palace Chase program.

Some bonus payback requirements may also be waived, officials said.

Applications for any of the force-shaping early release programs must be made through local military personnel flights by March 12.

More than 16,000 additional people — 12,700 enlisted and 3,900 officers — currently projected to leave will be allowed out to help the service return to its authorized active-duty force size by Sept. 30, 2005. The goal is to get within authorized end strength while avoiding "extreme measures" that "wreak havoc" with mission and morale, officials said.

Active-duty airmen wanting to transfer to the Reserve or Guard will be able to apply for a waiver of an active-duty service commitment regardless of their career field.

"We're a total force, and for our active-duty airmen who would like to separate early and still retain a connection to their Air Force, the Palace Chase program provides the perfect vehicle to pre-

serve operational capability while reducing active-duty end strength," said Maj. Gen. John Speigel, the Air Force's director of personnel policy at the Pentagon.

"We're focusing a big part of our efforts there because it keeps (servicemembers) and their expertise in the total force, while allowing them increased stability and a chance to continue working toward a military retirement," the general said.

Some applications may not be approved.

Because of manning shortages, 29 officer and 38 enlisted specialties will not qualify for many of the waivers. Among those are pilots, navigators, air battle managers, aerial gunners, fuels specialists, nurses and first sergeants. The complete list of "stressed" career fields that are excluded from many of the waivers is posted at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm.

"We don't want to break any career fields during our force-shaping efforts or create problems in future years similar to the ones caused by the downsizing in the early 1990s," said General Speigel.

"Approval authority for miscellaneous enlisted separations will rest at the personnel center, to centrally review applications and ensure compliance with manning needs," said Maj. Dawn Keasley, chief of retirement and separation policy at the Air Staff.

Examples of efforts to "shape" the force go beyond waivers. They include procedures where those who fail to complete technical schools only will be allowed to leave the Air Force or to reclassify into short-manned career fields. In addition, high-year-of-tenure extensions will only be granted to those in specific shortage career fields or for personal hardship reasons.

Program highlights include:

- The chance to transfer to the Guard and Reserve for those with at least 24 months time in service, incurring a 2-for-1 service commitment (not less than 1 year or greater than 6 years).

- Enlisted waivers of active-duty service commitments associ-

Interested in Guard or Reserve Opportunities?

Contact Warren's In-Service recruiter Master Sgt. Erika Bueno at 773-1983.

ated with technical training and bootstrap programs.

- Potential service commitment waivers of up to 18 months for permanent-change-of-station moves.

- Potential service commitment waivers for officers of up to 24 months for Air Force Institute of Technology doctoral education and Education With Industry.

- Up to 12-month waiver of intermediate and senior developmental education commitments for officers.

- Possibility of ROTC commissioning directly into the Reserve or Guard.

- Aviator Continuation Pay, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences scholarships, and AFIT fellowship, scholarship, and grant commitments will not be waived.

According to officials, force shaping is designed to return the Air Force to its authorized uniformed population, or "end strength," while shifting some airmen to fill positions in specialties that need more people of their rank.

The Air Force brought in thousands of people since the late '90s to build up to end strength, with limited consideration for the skill mix, officials said. But more people came into the service and fewer than expected left, leaving the force with more people than are authorized to be on active duty.

To reduce the total number of active-duty people in uniform, the Air Force is continuing efforts like retraining people into careers where they are needed more, outsourcing jobs to private industry, and converting some jobs from military people to Air Force civilian workers.

However, these new force-shaping tools are being offered because still more needs to be done, officials said.

Warren's Top Skier is Married to Liz Saucier

A few days after SnoFest!!!, Airman 1st Class Lauren Hasinger asked one of Warren's biggest winners, 1st Lt. Christopher Saucier, 90th Operations Support Squadron missile combat crew instructor, one third of the winning Broken Tip Challenge team and second place winner of the Individual Men's Ski Competition, his thoughts on everything from skiing to Switzerland.

Was this your first time at SnoFest?

No. This was my third. I compete every year. Last year I did OK, although I didn't win, I placed in the top five in the Men's Individual Ski Competition.

What was your most memorable moment from this past weekend?

Beating the master sergeant from finance in the individual competition finally. He beat me the last two times. We have a friendly rivalry.

How long have you been skiing?

I started when I was 3.

Do you have any advice for people who want to get into the sport?

Take lessons. Don't go up there with a buddy and expect him to show you how to do it. Keep in mind that you're not 4 years old any more and you can't bend that way like you used to. Be careful, but enjoy yourself. Don't stop after trying it once. Keep it up.

The difference in time between you and the first place winner in the individual men's ski was only .19 of a second. Does that bother you at all?

Actually it does in a sense. They handicapped the time because he was older than me. I had the faster score. Next year I'll just ski a little bit faster.

What is your job like back here?

We teach the missile procedure trainers classroom. I just started a few days ago so I'm not certified yet. I'm just in the beginning stage.

What's the best part so far?

I like feeling like we're doing something, but we're not on the front lines. We help people who need it. It feels good doing what we do.

Other than Warren, where's the coolest place the Air Force has taken you?

Maybe San Diego while I was an ROTC cadet.

Where did you go to school?

The University of North Texas.

Are you originally from Texas?

No. I'm from a town called Fort Kent in Maine. We were so close to Canada you could throw a rock from my grandparents roof and it would land in Canada.

What do you miss most about home?

I miss spending time with my family. Now we're all spread out over the country.

If you could have dinner delivered to you from anywhere in the world tonight, what would you have and where would it be from?

I would have fondue from Switzerland. I went to high school there.

How did that happen?

My dad's company transferred him to France. To be eligible to go to an American college, my dad's company paid for me to go to an American boarding school in Switzerland. I guess that's why I ski like I do.

Who is your hero?

My grandfather. His father died when my grandfather was only 13. He quit school to help out the family. He was very influential in his town. His funeral



Photo by Airman 1st Class Lauren Hasinger

was one of the biggest events that our little town had ever seen. He gave back after he achieved.

If you could experience any moment in history, what would it be?

I would have to say the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was a defining moment in history. After 200 years of history it would be neat to see its inception.

What's something the people you work with would be surprised to know about you?

That I speak French.

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a pilot.

Why aren't you a pilot now?

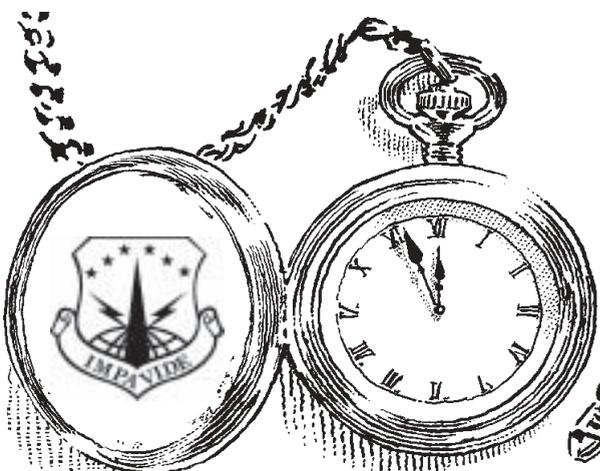
My eyesight is too poor.

What would you do with a time machine?

I'd like to go back and get to know my grandfather as an adult instead of a kid like I was when he died.

What is your life's motto?

Don't forget to smile.



Q - I had an excellent time at SnoFest but without the heavy discounts specifically for that weekend, I don't know how I can afford another ski trip as good. Please help!

A - I tell you what, you sure came to the right place! The reason SnoFest was so heavily discounted was of the enormous amount of people participating. But, there's no need to fret because I just talked with Terri Lamorie from outdoor rec. She's the adventure outdoor programer and has been putting together loads of fun (and discounted) things to do. There's a Valentine's weekend trip to Jackson Hole planned with just a few seats left. Can't get away for that weekend? Don't you worry, just call outdoor rec at 773-2988 to find out what else they're cooking up. If you are more interested in planning a trip on your own, stop by outdoor rec for discounted lift tickets and top notch rentals half the price of what resorts are charging.

email Lauren Beth at lauren.hasinger@warren.af.mil

Ask Lauren Beth



If she doesn't know the answer, there isn't one.

Give me Your Two Cents

What is the most exciting part about SnoFest!!!?



"Skiing with friends and sharing moments of laughter and challenges."
 -- Senior Airman Luke Dean, 90 SVS



"I like to ski, but for me the highlight is seeing all the people."
 -- Mr. Joe Mulcahy, Spouse



"I'm here for the combination of skiing one day and snowmobiling the next."
 -- 1st Lt. Michael Beck, 90 CONS

Where On Warren?

Think you know the answer? Be the first to send an email to sentinel@warren.af.mil with the correct building's address and you'll win a coupon book from Services and the respect of your co-workers.

Disclaimer: Poor, misleading and multiple answer questions are par for the course. PA staff, Museum staff, group and base commanders are excluded from playing. People who have won in the last three months should get back to work and let others play!



*A picture for you
 I thought I'd take,
 But too close;
 I made a mistake
 Lights and guns
 I did see
 Staff Sgt.
 Robert Lewis
 and his 790th crew
 made me flee.*

Congrats to Tech. Sgt. Bill Hemberger who knew the Medal of Honor Monument behind Gate 1!

CE Readiness; Recipes for Preparedness

FSTR-Reps

Your unit Full Spectrum Threat Response representative is your unit point of contact for Readiness issues. This person coordinates with your commander and the CE Readiness flight to ensure that your unit is trained and prepared for the full spectrum of threats faced here and abroad. You will be seeing the work of your FSTR Rep all around your unit on bulletin boards, in emails, at commanders calls, at flight meetings, etc.

Here is the Who's Who of FSTR Reps right now: **90 SFG-Se-** nior Airman Thomas, **90 CPTS-**Staff Sgt. Thompson, **90 MDG-**Mr. West, **90 LRS-**2nd Lt. Paden, **90 SVS-**2nd Lt. Parker, **90 CONS-**Staff Sgt. Harper, **90 OG-**Maj. Gabriel, **90 CES-**Senior Airman Donovan, **90 CS-**Tech. Sgt. Sargent, **90 MXG-**Capt. Knutzen, **90 MSS-**Master Sgt. Niel.

Contact CE Readiness at 773-2132; 90ces/cex.training@warren.af.mil

